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February 14, 2019

Judy Genshaft, President
University of South Florida

Brian Lamb, Chair
University of South Florida Board of Trustees

Dear President Genshaft, Chair Lamb, and Members of the Board,

I write regarding the ongoing consolidation efforts between the University of South Florida and the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg (USFSP), and the decision as to whether USFSP will be designated a branch campus or an instructional site.

I was heartened to read of President Genshaft's recent comments indicating support for USFSP being deemed a "branch" campus with "fully developed programs." I look forward to forthcoming, detailed plans for that designation, and many other important aspects of the consolidation plan, informed and in line with the recently completed task force recommendations.

We all can agree that in order to maintain the distinctive identity, culture and learning experience USFSP's students, faculty, and administration have built over the past decades, a branch campus designation and retaining an appropriate level of autonomy is the only logical and appropriate choice.

Thank you very much for your consideration on this matter. I am confident that open communication and thoughtful deliberation will result in the best outcome for the entire University of South Florida family.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN

CC: Chancellor Martin Tadlock, Vice Chair Jordan Zimmerman, Michael Carrere, Stephanie Goforth, Oscar Horton, Moneer Kheireddine, Deanna Michael, Harold Mullis, Leslie Muma, John Ramil, Byron Shinn, Charles Tokarz, Nancy Watkins, and Cindy Visot